



VOTER

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF BENTON & FRANKLIN COUNTIES

www.lwv-bf.org

Dec. 2018/ Jan. 2019

From the President JoAnn Bengtson

The New Year will be here before we know it! Plan ahead to fully participate in League activities next year. Help your Benton Franklin League set and reach 2019 goals at our annual planning meeting in January. Your ideas are welcome. Keep in mind that our local voice is magnified state and nationwide through this soon- to- be- 100 –year- old network of like- minded individuals, all defending democracy and promoting informed voter participation in government.

Happy Holidays and a very Happy New Year!

Holiday Party Marilyn Perkins

Please join us for our **Holiday Party on Sunday, December 9 from 1- 3 pm**. Christine Grantham has invited us to her home. Part of the adventure will be getting there. She lives on Tripple Vista, south of I-82. We will have a great view of Badger Canyon to the west and wheat fields to the east.

In the spring of 2017, we held a Table Talk with recent refugees and learned about their transition to life in the United States. Members wanted to learn more about the educational experience for the children. Many of the refugee families settle in Kennewick and the school district focuses many of their services at Westgate Elementary (grades K- 5). We will hear from two KSD employees: Alyssa St. Hilare, Bilingual Coordinator and Nesreen Al Muzayen, Immigrant Support Coordinator. Amira Salami from World Relief will also be part of the program. As usual, there will be an opportunity for questions.

Members can contribute an appetizer or dessert to share. Lunch is optional before you come as we usually have plenty of food. It's a good opportunity to meet new members and catch up with others you haven't seen for awhile.

(Continued on next page)

Officers

President:
JoAnn Bengtson
1st Vice President:
JoAnne Dimond
2nd Vice President:
Janet Nail
Secretary:
Ruvine Jimenez
Treasurer:
Shirley Sonnichsen
Past President:
Polly Parton
Voter Editor:
Diane Molleson

Elected Directors:

Beverly Johnson-Torelli
Danette Keegan
Diane Molleson
Lora Rathbone
Chuck Torelli

Appointed Directors:

Ruth Giese
Judy Golberg
Sabiha Khan
Lisabeth Jimenez
Marilyn Perkins
Kelly Pflieger

Holiday Party (Continued from p. 1)

Christine's address is 105195 W. Tripple Vista Drive, Kennewick. To get there, you can use Google Maps etc., or these directions:

Directions: From Richland or Pasco, take Steptoe from the roundabout, go to Clearwater and straight through the light. From Kennewick, take Clearwater to the Steptoe intersection and turn left onto Steptoe. Go straight until you come to a roundabout (and be sure to notice the erratics, deposited during the Ice Age floods. They were moved there for your benefit.) Take the first exit; the sign will point to Clodfelter Rd. Follow it until 15th and take a right and continue on it. You will see Desert Hills Middle School on the left. After you pass the school, you will see a large apartment complex on the right. You will then go over the interstate and continue until Cantera St. where you will turn right and go up the hill. Turn left onto Tripple Vista. Christine's house will be ahead on the left. Her phone number is 509-845-0820. Contact Marilyn Perkins at 783-8610 if you would like to carpool or have any questions.

Treasurer's Report

Shirley Sonnichsen

At the end of October, checking was \$4,153; savings was \$1,856 for a total of \$6009.

Checking: \$ 4,153
Savings: \$1,856
Total: \$6,009

Income: We received \$1,120 in dues and \$65 in member contributions. We also received another donation in memory of Paula Garland for \$25. Total income **\$1,210**.

Expenses: The post office rental fee was paid for \$120. The fees for the PayPal dues were \$3.49. Total expenses were **\$123**.

Membership: We have 43 paid members. Rosemary Quirk's daughter, Marisa, has joined. We have 57 members in total. An email will be sent to the members who have not paid their dues.

Election Results Discussed at Nov. Table Talk Polly Parton

We enjoyed a traditional post-election Table Talk on November 8 with soups, salad and breads. Marilyn Perkins led a lively and enjoyable after-supper discussion of local and national election results. Some items noted were our impressive local turnout for a non-presidential election year. Benton County hit 67% and Franklin County near 63%. We reviewed local, state and initiative results. Only three states currently use vote by mail: Washington, Oregon and Colorado.

Nationwide, the top issues for voters were healthcare, immigration and jobs. Chuck Torelli wondered as Republicans move further right of center and Democrats slightly further left of center, how do we come to an agreement? Lora Rathbone felt social media and long-standing TV entertainment news have discounted facts as a basis for forming our positions. Many agreed people hear the same information and often interpret it differently. We discussed possible ways to work with other local groups to further civil discussions and voter education in our community.

Marilyn noted that as an increasing number of women, immigrants and minorities join the ranks in both media and elected offices, more change will come. Thanks to Diane Molleson for hosting the Table Talk.

Legislative Priorities

Lora Rathbone

From the LWVWA: The State of Washington Legislative Session begins Monday, January 14, 2019. “We are looking to create change on critical issues affecting our state next year and we need your voice to make it happen!”

Here are the 2019 legislative priorities (Read issue papers at: <https://www.lwvwa.org/issues>). If you would like to receive my weekly action alerts, let me know at ldrathbone@outlook.com. I will focus on democracy, some of the social policies, and the environment. If you would like to sign up for the LWVWA weekly legislative newsletters, go to <https://www.lwvwa.org/wa-state-league-newsletters>.

DEMOCRACY

Elections, Campaign Finance and Government Ethics— Improve access to the ballot, reduce influence of special interest money, and increase transparency in government.

Election Methods— Promote the adoption and implementation of election methods that maximize representation and citizen participation.

Election Security— Promote security, accuracy, auditability, and transparency in elections.

Census and Redistricting— Ensure the redistricting process is accessible and transparent with timeframes that enable input. Support an accurate and complete 2020 Census

SOCIAL POLICIES

Economic and Social Justice— Ensure equality of opportunity, prevent and reduce poverty and promote fair policies for all struggling to realize their human potential.

Criminal Justice— Eradicate racial bias from the criminal justice system to uphold principles of fairness and due process.

Housing and Homelessness— Achieve policies and funding necessary to address the homelessness crisis and assure an adequate supply of affordable housing for middle-to-low income people.

Healthcare, Behavioral Health and Reproductive Rights— Ensure access for all residents to comprehensive, uniform and affordable physical and behavioral health care and reproductive services.

Gun Safety— Limit accessibility of firearms, including assault-style weapons and high capacity clips. Enact safe storage requirements for guns.

EDUCATION

Ensure the state continues fully funding education. Support student health and safety legislation.

CLIMATE CHANGE, ENERGY and NATURAL RESOURCES

Climate Change— Reduce greenhouse gas emissions, put a price on carbon, and enact measures to promote climate resiliency.

Energy— Protect the Washington Energy Independence Act, increase renewable power use and promote energy conservation in building and lifestyle practices.

Forests and Rivers— Protect our forests from destructive wildfires and logging practices. Protect our public lands and river systems.

Shorelines, Wetlands and Land Use— Protect our shoreline management, growth management and state environmental policy acts from efforts to weaken them.

Transportation— Achieve an integrated, adequate and effective transportation system that prioritizes maintenance and emphasizes emissions reduction and traffic reduction, such as public transportation.

(Continued on next page)

Legislative Priorities (Continued)

Water— Continue improving the state and local governmental programs empowered to protect the quality and quantity of our water including municipal water, groundwater, and in-stream flows.

FAIR and ADEQUATE REVENUE

Adopt fair revenue policies to adequately fund services and functions critical to the wellbeing of the people of our state.

Program Planning Meeting on Jan. 12 **Marilyn Perkins**

Our annual Program Planning meeting will be held **Saturday, Jan. 12 from 10 am to noon**. Every January we meet to discuss possible program ideas for the State or National Leagues and our own local League. In odd numbered years we discuss topics and activities we would like the State League to work on, and we also will spend time talking about ideas for our own League. If you are interested in a specific issue at the state level, you can go to the state League's website (<https://www.lwvwa.org>). Local positions can be found on our web site (www.lwv-bf.org).

As with all good League meetings we will have food. Members can bring an item for brunch, such as fruit, muffins, bread, breakfast casseroles, juice, but it's fine to not bring anything. There is usually plenty of food. The meeting will be held at the home of Polly Parton, 316 Northview Loop in West Richland. From Bombing Range Rd. turn west onto Collins Rd. and go up the hill. At Northview Loop, turn right and Polly's house will be on the right. If you have any questions, please contact Marilyn Perkins, 783-8610.

From LWVWA: Action Workshops

LWVWA's Action Workshops offer an in-depth look at the upcoming legislative session, a chance to hear from local lawmakers and keynote speakers, information about key issues in Washington State, and ways to get involved in issues you are passionate about.

Upcoming Action Workshops:

Spokane: Dec. 1, 9:30 am at The Women's Club, 1428 W. 9th Ave., Spokane [Sign up here.](#)

Shoreline: Jan. 12, 9:30 am at Shoreline Community College, 16101 Greenwood Avenue, North Shoreline. The focus will be the environment. [Sign up here.](#)

Questions? Contact LWVWA Lobby Team Chair Maddy Vonhoff
at mvonhoff@lwvwa.org or at 360-713-1997.

TRYs (They Represent You)

Every January we update and edit our local League's brochure, *They Represent You!* Volunteers will be needed to update information about national, state and local officials, and judges. Please contact Diane Molleson at molleson@frontier.com if you can volunteer. We will also have a sign-up sheet at the Holiday Party.

Happy Holidays to all!

LWVBF Calendar

December 2018

Saturday, December 1— LWVWA Action Workshop, 9:30 am, The Women's Club, Spokane

Sunday, December 9— Holiday Party, 1-3 pm, Christine's home

No Board Meeting

January 2019

Saturday, January 12— LWVWA Action Workshop, 9:30 am, Shoreline Community College, North Shoreline

Saturday, January 12— LWVBF Program Planning Meeting, 10 am, Polly's home

Thursday, January 17— Board Meeting, 6 pm, BF Transit Center (1000 Columbia Park Trail). All members are welcome

Email us at
lww.of.bf@gmail.com

League of Women Voters of
Benton & Franklin
Counties
**P. O. Box 765,
Richland WA 99352**